



IUCN in Oceania

Annual Report 2012



OUR VISION

A just world that values and conserves nature

OUR MISSION

To influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable.

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FOREWORD



“As relative newcomers in a busy regional space, it is important to demonstrate that we can add value to environment and climate change issues with governments and civil society as well as with other regional partners.”

A call for extraordinary action...

2012 was marked by the disappointment of Rio+20 - a general agreement that the world has not delivered on sustainable development. At IUCN Oceania we started asking the question, “How do we ensure that we get the Oceania we need?”

In Honiara, in March 2012, we co-hosted with the Solomon Islands Government the inaugural Pacific Islands Species Forum, featuring some grand presentations on conservation work being done by young Pacific Islanders. However, success stories were interspersed with the challenges that communities and the environment are facing from logging, mining and various development initiatives. It is obvious that if conservation is to be effective and at levels required to achieve healthy sustainable development outcomes, we need to take extraordinary actions for change. “Ordinary” is no longer enough.

I am pleased to say that IUCN Oceania is developing a regional programme that is finding a relevant IUCN niche in the region. As relative newcomers in a busy regional space, it is important to demonstrate that we can add value to environment and climate change issues with governments and civil society as well as with other regional partners. Yes, we still have to deliver projects on the ground, but, these projects can provide a platform for a different kind of engagement that provides new commitments and eventually bigger conservation results as part of a shift towards effective sustainable development. Working with the Government of Fiji, the Melanesia Spearhead Group (MSG) and GIZ, IUCN was able to help put together the inaugural MSG Minister's Meeting on Environment and Climate Change, which called for new commitments at a scale for dealing with biodiversity conservation and climate change. We are seeing the results internally with a growth spurt that has come from building the right kind of internal capacity and engaging governments effectively.

In 2012 we had 31 people on our team with five project officers placed with government Ministries in Solomon Islands, Fiji, Tonga, Vanuatu and Samoa.

Our portfolio has grown tenfold from USD \$300K in 2007 to USD \$3million in 2012. As we look to 2013, we will double our current capacity and also open an office in Papua New Guinea. We have developed a world class team at IUCN Oceania which provides an exciting foundation to build innovative programmes and activities that provide the “extraordinary” engagement that we need in the region. I hope you will enjoy reading about some of these activities.

Our engagement with Members has taken some big steps forward. In Australia, a full time Director and strong leadership in the Australian Committee for IUCN has resulted in raising the profile of IUCN through with innovative seminars and symposia. In the Pacific, we welcomed Vanuatu as our newest and eighth Oceania State Member. We have stepped up activities in Melanesia with strong leadership commitments and projects developing in these countries. I would like to see this grow into stronger engagements in Micronesia, Polynesia and the French Territories during 2013.

It was good to take a strong IUCN Oceania contingent to the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Jeju and celebrate with the IUCN family the successes from the region and worldwide – a timely reminder of connections across the globe and the special contribution that Oceania makes to the world, with our incredible diversity in ecosystems, people, and culture.

Finally, - a big vinaka vakalevu to the Oceania team and our Members and partners for a special year.



Taholo Kami
Regional Director
IUCN Oceania

HIGHLIGHTS



Melanesia meets for nature

26-27 January - IUCN Oceania played a key role in the first MSG Minister's Meeting on Environment and Climate Change, in Nadi, Fiji. For over a year IUCN Oceania pushed for environmental considerations in the MSG negotiations to set up the platform.

Planning ahead for hydro power

25 February - IUCN Oceania helped develop a management and monitoring plan for the construction of a micro-hydro project on the Talise River on Maewo Island, in Vanuatu.

Partnerships for nature

29 February - IUCN Oceania sought partnerships and designed work plans to strengthen environmental laws and build capacity in the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Timor-Leste, under the Coral Triangle Pacific project.

Giving clean light

30 March - IUCN Oceania teamed up with the Tongan Government and installed 52 new solar home systems for the people of Lofanga, one of the many isolated islands in the Ha'apai Group.

Attention on species

25-27 April - Co-hosting with the Solomon Islands Government, IUCN Oceania convened the inaugural Pacific Islands Species Forum in Honiara, providing a platform to discuss scientific research, lessons from the field and species priorities for the Pacific.

Informing the implementers

17-21 May - In a new set of factsheets, IUCN Oceania provided guidance to assist Pacific Island energy officials in identifying potential environmental impacts of small scale solar, hydro, wind and bioenergy projects.

Green Growth Coalition formed

30 May – 1 June - IUCN Oceania urged the creation of an advisory panel to support countries and regional bodies to prepare and deliver green growth commitments. As a result, the Green Growth Leadership Coalition was formed by seven key leaders from the region.

Economics of coastal zone management

8 June - The University of the South Pacific (USP), The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and IUCN Oceania jointly published the report "Economics of coastal zone management in the Pacific".

Training the trainers

23 – 26 July - IUCN Oceania, in collaboration with the International Institute of Sustainable Development (IISD), trained the national coordinators for the *Mangrove Ecosystems for Climate Change Adaptation and Livelihoods* (MESCAL) project to use the Community-based Risk Screening Tool – Adaptation and Livelihoods (CRISTAL) toolkit.

New venture on protected areas

21 August - The Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Programme was launched in the Pacific.

Pushing nature's agenda

22 – 24 August - During the high level leaders' economic dialogue at the 3rd Engaging with the Pacific Leaders Meeting, IUCN Oceania called on governments to place their natural resources at the heart of economic plans.

New Member joins

24 August - The Government of Vanuatu officially announced its decision to join IUCN as a State Member.

Pacific joins IUCN Congress

6 – 15 September - IUCN Oceania and regional Members and partners travelled to Korea to present Pacific issues at the World Conservation Congress, IUCN's unique global platform for debating the world's most pressing conservation issues, and for approving IUCN's 2013-16 programme of work.

Managing ecosystems for the future

4 October - IUCN Oceania was given the green light to implement the new project *Mangrove Rehabilitation for Sustainably Managed Healthy Forests (MARSH)* in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

Protecting marine areas

5 October - IUCN Oceania, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and SPREP, in consultation with Pacific Island governments, collaborated to plan a five year programme of work on marine protected areas in the Pacific Islands

Connecting private investments and energy systems

13 October - IUCN Oceania received approval to work in Nauru, Niue and Tuvalu to remove barriers for private investment in low carbon energy systems, such as grid-connected renewable energy projects.

Fishes, snails and reptiles in danger

18 October - In the most comprehensive assessment of its kind in the Pacific, almost 500 species of freshwater fishes, land snails and reptiles were evaluated for inclusion in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™, revealing that 32% of evaluated species are threatened with extinction.

Reviewing national mangrove policies

6-23 November - IUCN Oceania worked with the governments of Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Tonga to review existing legislation and policies related to mangrove ecosystem management in these five countries.

Collaboration for largest marine protected area

15 November - IUCN Oceania signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of the Cook Islands, supporting the establishment of the world's largest marine protected area – the Cook Islands Marine Park.

Strategic partnerships

5 December - IUCN Oceania reaffirmed its commitment to support governments in their conservation pursuits, hosting a meeting for Fiji-based High Commissioners of Melanesian countries.



WHERE WE WORK

The IUCN Oceania Region



The IUCN Oceania region is comprised of the 24 countries and territories of Polynesia, Micronesia, Melanesia, Australia and New Zealand. Oceania is geographically one of IUCN's largest regional programmes, covering over 100 million km² of land and ocean. As we continue to understand more about the diverse species in Oceania, we recognize the exceptionally high endemism rates - as high as 90% in certain groups - a feature reinforced by the remoteness of its many islands. Oceania also contains a diverse range of ecosystems, from coral reefs to kelp forests, mangroves to montane forests, and wetlands to deserts.

Throughout the Pacific, nature supports the daily livelihoods of island communities. Nature is both culturally significant and the primary source of food, water and income. However, increasing pressures from growing populations, extractive industries, infrastructure

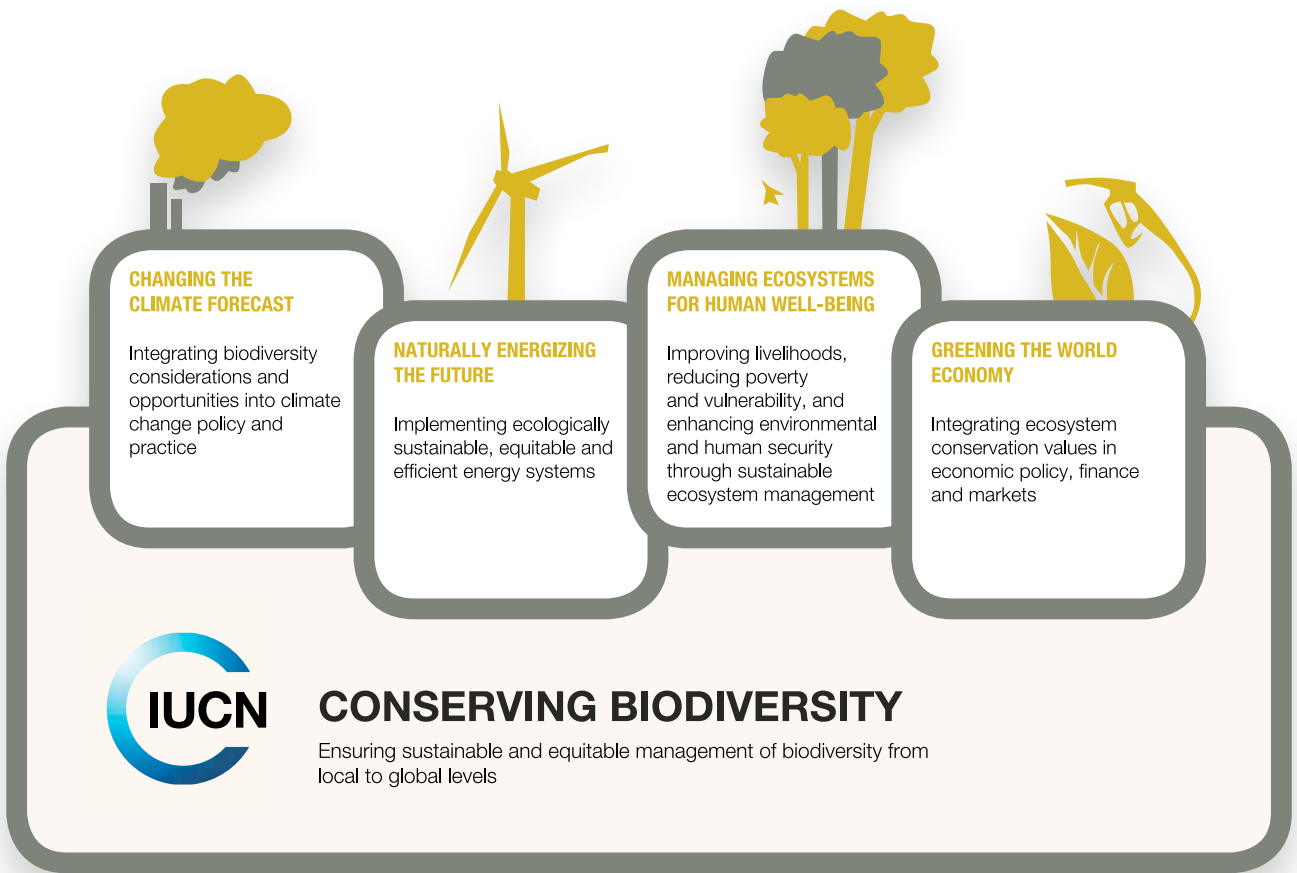
developments and invasive species are increasing the risk of biodiversity loss in many countries.

Australia and New Zealand lead the region's economic development, and have solid capacity in the environmental management of developments. The countries and territories of the Pacific Islands have also made progress in recent years in building environmental governance and policy. IUCN often acts as a broker for the environment, encouraging governments, like-minded organizations and communities to work together for the sustainable management of nature's resources. The concept of "investing in nature" is central to this approach: too often, people view nature as a luxury or a problem rather than a solution. For the people of Oceania, it is vital that we invest in natural resources that promote sustainable use, management, and conservation of the species that support our everyday lives.



HOW WE WORK





IUCN operates through a Global Programme covering the four year period between each IUCN World Conservation Congress. 2012 was the final year of IUCN's Intersessional Programme Shaping a sustainable future 2009-2012. This overall guide for the Union provided the framework for the IUCN Oceania Regional Programme (2009-2012), led by IUCN Oceania. The Union's core

focus of ensuring sustainable and equitable management of biodiversity was complemented by four Thematic Programme Areas, which addressed human use of and impacts on biodiversity. Through these thematic programmes, the Secretariat engaged Members and partners in actions that advanced IUCN's vision: *a just world that values and conserves nature*.

THE IUCN OCEANIA REGIONAL PROGRAMME

In 2012, IUCN Oceania delivered on the IUCN Oceania Regional Programme 2009-2012 in the following ways:

The **Species Programme** focused on enhancing the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ for the Pacific Islands region; contributing to efforts in combating invasive species in the Pacific region through the Pacific Invasives Partnership; supporting governments in implementing the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); and increasing awareness of the status of species in the region.

The **Water and Wetlands Programme** focused on integrating environmental concerns into water resource management, including promoting environmental flows, applying environmental economics, and enhancing watershed ecosystem management. It also aimed to increase awareness about the role of natural solutions in climate change adaptation and the value of coastal ecosystems in the context of disaster risk reduction.

Under the Water and Wetlands Programme, the **Pacific Mangroves Initiative (PMI)** is a regional partnership between SPREP, IUCN Oceania and countries of the Pacific region. The PMI seeks to enhance the management of mangroves and associated coastal ecosystems in order to sustain and improve livelihoods, enhance and sustain coastal biodiversity and explore adaptation and mitigation approaches to climate change. In 2012, the MESCAL project continued to deliver the PMI's goals.

The **Energy Programme** assisted countries to accelerate their transition to energy systems that incorporate renewable energy, increase energy efficiency and minimize impacts on biodiversity, while being sustainable and socially equitable. Many of these goals were achieved through the project *Managing the Ecosystem and Livelihood Implications of Energy Policies in the Pacific Island States (Pacific SIDS-EESLI)*, which is supported by the Governments of Italy and Austria. Partnerships and synergies with other energy-related partners and regional organizations were developed and strengthened during the year.

The **Marine Programme** sought to widen support for marine resource management in the region through the establishment and management of marine protected areas (MPA) and MPA networks, identifying ecologically and biologically significant areas in the central and western Pacific region, providing expertise to planned and existing coastal and marine World Heritage sites, and by raising awareness of environmental concerns related to deep sea mineral exploitation.

The **Environmental Law Programme** continued to enhance governance of biodiversity by increasing awareness of laws to protect and manage natural resources; encouraging an integrated and rights-based approach to natural resource management in accordance with international obligations; providing assistance in building capacity; assisting Pacific Island Member governments with the development of environmental policies and plans; and increasing awareness of the role of law for conservation and management of nature.





OUR WORK



CONSERVING BIODIVERSITY

Protecting and managing biodiversity is at the heart of the IUCN Oceania Regional Programme. The biodiversity of Oceania is fragile: sharing and consolidating knowledge, improving management approaches and increasing the effectiveness of biodiversity monitoring is therefore crucial. In 2012, IUCN Oceania focused on building knowledge and understanding through a variety of initiatives.

Hosting of the inaugural Pacific Islands Species Forum

Sharing quality information about the status and trends of species provides a reliable basis for long-term planning and management for any conservation programme. The inaugural Pacific Islands Species Forum enabled dialogue to address such issues. Jointly hosted by IUCN and the government of the Solomon Islands, an IUCN State Member, this successful forum brought together more than 70 scientists and conservation practitioners from the Pacific region and beyond, who agreed on a priority list of conservation actions. Also at the request of the Forum, Honorable Gordon Darcy Lilo, the Prime Minister of the Solomon Islands, accepted the challenge to take on the role of champion for conservation of species and biodiversity, both in the Pacific and at the international level. The Forum called on Pacific Islanders to “make every effort to understand and value the various species of plants and animals and natural environments that make up our island homes”.

Improving species knowledge

IUCN Oceania completed its project to update information on Pacific Island freshwater fishes, land snails and reptiles which have now been included in the IUCN Red List. An expert team evaluated 167 freshwater fishes, 166 species of land snail and 157 reptiles, in the most comprehensive assessment of its kind in the Pacific. The Red List update released on 18 October 2012 revealed that 32% of the evaluated species are threatened with extinction. This two-year project, supported through the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund and Fonds Pacifique, was the first step in a process that aims to systematically address different Pacific Island species groups over the next 10 years.

As part of IUCN Oceania's MESCAL project, new records of mangrove species occurrences were documented in several countries. In the Solomon Islands, the identification of *Bruguiera parviflora* and *Avicennia alba* at the Maramasike passage in the province of Malaita now brings the total number of mangrove species that occur in the Solomon Islands to 30. The sighting of *Pemphis acidula* and the hybrid *Rhizophora x selala* in Koloa, Vava'u, extends the species' known range in Tonga, where it was previously only known from Tongatapu, and brings the total number of mangrove species known for

Tonga to 10. These types of surveys have assisted in improving our knowledge of species, and these types of data can now be incorporated into the IUCN Red List.

Also under the MESCAL project, fish and other faunal surveys conducted in Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu and Fiji have helped to enhance our understanding of the species composition in MESCAL demonstration sites. For example, at Le Asaga Bay in Samoa, preliminary findings identified more than 20 fish and mobile crustacean species. Providing this type of information through databases such as the IUCN Red List can guide and improve conservation efforts in the region.

Battling invasive species

IUCN Oceania continued to support the Pacific Invasives Partnership (PIP), which in 2012 advocated for 'prevention over cure', working with governments such as Fiji and Samoa to strengthen the capacity of biosecurity departments for controlling the introduction of potentially harmful species. In January, a major success of PIP was the inclusion of a request for more action on invasive species in the Pacific Island Forum Leaders' Statement. IUCN Oceania continued to work closely with the Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG) of IUCN's Species Survival Commission, and supported the involvement of key specialists from the ISSG in regional dialogues.

Protecting land and sea

IUCN Oceania teamed with the GIZ and the SPREP to develop a five year project to support the establishment of representative networks of marine protected areas in Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. In line with Aichi Target 11 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), these countries have committed to protect 10% of their marine areas by 2020. The *Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Management in Pacific Island Countries and Atolls (MACBIO)* project will launch in 2013 and will also seek to strengthen the management capacity of marine protected areas, and facilitate economic evaluations of coastal and marine resources.

In the Cook Islands, IUCN Oceania signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government to help establish the world's largest marine protected area – the Cook Islands Marine Park - which will cover over 1 million

square kilometres (411,000 square miles) and be the largest marine park ever declared by a single country for integrated ocean conservation.

IUCN Oceania conducted groundwork for the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) project, launched in 2011 with funding from the European Union. In 2012, IUCN Oceania developed partnerships and identified suitable mechanisms for delivery of the project in a Pacific context. The BIOPAMA Pacific component will use existing biodiversity and socio-economic data to enhance understanding of the human and ecological factors that influence protected area management. The project will support the creation of a “Regional Observatory for Protected Areas and Biodiversity”, which will collect and hold relevant national and regional data on biodiversity, its pressures and threats. A regional capacity building programme, partnering with existing institutions, training centres, and universities will also be developed.

Providing a platform for learning

IUCN Oceania continued to coordinate the Ma’afu Street Lecture Series during 2012, encouraging marine conservation practitioners to share knowledge on tools, survey methodologies, challenges and achievements related to sustainable marine resource management and climate change. The Lecture Series attracted interest from marine conservation experts and practitioners from various academic institutions, governments, NGOs, students and the media. Contributors included the Wildlife Conservation Society, who elaborated on their ecosystem based management work in the Kubulau Marine Protected Area Network in Fiji; the American Museum of Natural History, who explained their research initiatives and grassroots community partnerships in the Pacific; and Beqa Adventure Divers, who spoke about their research and tourism activities taking place at the Shark Reef Marine Reserve in Fiji.

Supporting regional and international agreements

IUCN Oceania continued to work cooperatively with governments, SPREP and other partners, to support the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements, in particular the CBD, CITES, Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar) and the United National Framework Convention on Climate Change. IUCN Oceania provided advice at several international fora convened in 2012, including meetings of the IUCN World Heritage Programme to provide recommendations to the World Heritage Committee, the biennial Ramsar Convention Oceania meeting, and regional discussions to assist South Pacific Island countries meet their obligations to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing Arising from their Utilization.

In its role as Chair of the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation (PIRT), IUCN Oceania facilitated several discussions for member organizations to ensure balance between large conservation commitments and effective on-the-ground conservation management. IUCN Oceania worked with other PIRT partners in the planning of the 9th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas, which will be held in December 2013. This conference takes place every five years and is the largest nature conservation gathering in the Pacific.

IUCN Oceania also shared its experiences and knowledge of working in the region at several IUCN-led events including the IUCN Species Survival Commission Chairs' meeting held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.



CHANGING THE CLIMATE FORECAST



Climate change is a critical issue for Oceania. All countries are dealing with the challenges of climate change, and it is increasingly recognized that ecosystems provide natural solutions to begin the adaptation process, while also mitigating climate change.

Putting nature on the agenda

During January 2012, IUCN Oceania provided technical assistance to the first Environment and Climate Change Ministers' Meeting of the MSG, which brought together ministers and senior level officials from Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and the FLKNS (Front de libération nationale kanak et socialiste) of New Caledonia. The recommendations that came out of this dialogue were included in a Declaration made by MSG leaders at the MSG Leaders' Summit in March 2012. This Declaration addresses serious environmental issues, in particular those related to mining and climate change, recognising the importance of nature-based solutions such as the conservation of blue carbon ecosystems.

At the 3rd Engaging with the Pacific Leaders' Meeting in August, IUCN Oceania led dialogues on the value of the land and oceans of the Pacific in promoting natural solutions to deal with climate change and also called on leaders to place their natural resources at the heart of economic plans. The high level meeting was attended by approximately 50 delegates from 12 Pacific Island countries and heads of organizations from UNESCAP, MSG Secretariat and others.

Linking livelihoods and project impacts

IUCN Oceania and IISD organized a training workshop to introduce all MESCAL project country coordinators to the CRISTAL toolkit. The CRISTAL toolkit was used in participatory community assessments in selected MESCAL sites in order to allow communities to assess the impacts of climate change on their livelihoods and to increase their resilience to these potential impacts.

REDD+ and forest carbon rights

Who owns the carbon in the forest? Forest carbon rights is a new legal issue that is important to resolve for all developing countries engaging with REDD+. Like many other countries, Fiji has to make a decision on the way ahead for carbon rights to proceed with its REDD-Plus policy. In order to inform this process, and as part of the SPC/GIZ "REDD+ and Carbon Rights in Melanesia" project, IUCN Oceania undertook a comprehensive legal analysis to identify the options for the ownership of carbon rights in Fiji, and their implications for law reform. The findings of this analysis were discussed at a national workshop in Fiji in August, and the analysis paper presented at the "REDD+ and Forest Carbon Rights in Melanesia" regional workshop in Nadi in November. Also a Synthesis Paper was published summarizing the legal position as to how carbon rights are treated under existing legal frameworks in four Melanesian countries and options for law reform.

NATURALLY ENERGIZING THE FUTURE

Ensuring fair and accessible energy solutions remains a priority for Pacific Island Countries and Territories, particularly in countries where electricity access by rural communities remains low (in some countries below 10%). Energy expansion options include biofuels, wind, solar and geothermal sources. However, energy developments need to be carefully planned to avoid negative impacts on the environment and biodiversity. IUCN Oceania supports processes that accelerate the transition to energy systems that are ecologically sustainable, socially equitable, and economically efficient, while making full use of the best available technologies and governance arrangements. Through its activities in 2012, IUCN Oceania reinforced and supported the United Nations General Assembly's vision of 2012 as the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL).

Enabling access to clean energy

Under the *Managing the Ecosystem and Livelihood Implications of Energy Policies in the Pacific Island States (Pacific SIDS-EESLI)* Project, IUCN Oceania worked throughout 2012 to support transitions from petroleum based energy services to ecologically sustainable and efficient energy systems. Projects were carried out in six countries – Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu – and lessons learned from practical demonstrations were used to influence national decision-making on energy development. Work completed under this project includes:

- **Providing light for essential services**

On the island of Lofanga in Tonga's Ha'apai group, 52 new solar home systems were installed, and now provide basic lighting and enough power for radio and mobile phone charging for the 180 people who live on the island. Lofanga is the third island in the group to receive solar homes systems as part of IUCN Oceania's Pacific SIDS-EESLI Project.

- **Encouraging good environmental management**

The land owning communities of the Talise River, in the heart of Maewo Island in Vanuatu, have long awaited access to modern energy sources, and the government of Vanuatu is constructing a small-scale run-of-river hydropower on the Talise River to meet their needs. IUCN encouraged the development of an Environmental Management Plan to ensure that environmental considerations were incorporated into the construction and operation of the 75kW micro-hydro. Working with the Vanuatu Government and the three neighbouring communities, IUCN Oceania produced the plan in 2012, the first of its kind for a community-based energy project in Vanuatu.

- **Improving efficiency and reducing emissions**

In Palau, IUCN Oceania continued working with the National Development Bank of Palau, promoting energy efficient homes through an innovative financing scheme. Under a specially designed home loan package, 21 energy efficient homes were constructed in 2012. Each new home saved an estimated 15% in their monthly electricity bills, resulting in increased household disposable income.

In Samoa, IUCN Oceania worked with the Land Transport Authority to test vehicle emission, with the ultimate aim to develop national guidelines and standards on vehicle emissions. Regular community days were also held throughout the country in order to promote the use of non-motorized vehicles for transport.

During 2012, many partners joined to identify possible opportunities for low-energy shipping, to address the significant problem of energy intensive transport. This culminated in November 2012 at the Sustainable Sea Transport Talanoa organised by the USP (an IUCN Member), with the support of a range of partners, including IUCN Oceania.

Promoting sustainability

Previous projects implemented by IUCN Oceania under the Pacific SIDS-EESLI continued to be monitored during 2012 including the solar lighting project in Tuvalu and the street lighting project in the Republic of the Marshall Islands where IUCN Oceania provided continuous support and feedback.

Also in 2012, IUCN Oceania learned through several of its demonstration projects that implications of energy systems on the environment are often overlooked during planning stages. As a result, a set of factsheets were produced to inform and assist Pacific Island energy officials in identifying potential environmental impacts of small scale solar, hydro, wind and bioenergy projects.

MANAGING ECOSYSTEMS FOR HUMAN WELL-BEING

Acknowledging and maintaining ecosystem goods and services and their role in supporting communities and livelihoods is central to IUCN's commitment to nature conservation and development. In 2012, IUCN Oceania worked with regional governments under the umbrella of the Pacific Mangrove Initiative and the MESCAL project, to demonstrate that appropriate management of water and wetland resources can improve the resilience of nature and people to extreme weather and enhance the integrity of surrounding ecosystems.

Building capacity for mangrove surveys

The MESCAL Fiji Project held two survey training workshops, where over 50 government field officers were introduced to mangrove fisheries survey methods and basic mangrove watch techniques. Using this knowledge, the officers conducted biodiversity surveys at demonstration sites in Rewa and Tailevu provinces, compiling a status report of mangrove fauna and flora, and determining the value of mangrove systems as fisheries nurseries and habitat. Similar training took place in Vanuatu, to enable mangrove monitoring and fisheries assessments in the MESCAL project sites.

Improved knowledge and data on mangrove ecosystems

In conjunction with SPREP and country partners, IUCN Oceania produced maps of mangrove areas at selected sites in Samoa and Tonga, based on GIS surveys and methodologies. The exercise identified more than 20 new mangrove sites on the island of Savaii, Samoa's largest island, whilst in Tonga it was possible to compare the extent and health of mangroves in different island systems, with Vava'u's mangroves found to be more resilient than those of Tongatapu.

Review of mangrove legislative and policy frameworks

Existing laws and policies in most Pacific Island countries do not yet fully address issues affecting mangrove ecosystems. For this reason, IUCN Oceania worked with the governments of Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Tonga (all of which are State Members of IUCN) to review existing legislation and policies related to mangrove management in these five countries. This ongoing exercise assists these governments in addressing present legislative and policy gaps to strengthen management and conservation of vital mangrove ecosystems. The final review document for each country is planned to be completed by 2013 and submitted for approval by the respective governments.

New project for mangrove rehabilitation and management

In 2012, IUCN signed an agreement with USAID to implement the MARSH project in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. The five-year project will provide training for communities to sustainably manage their mangrove forests, support mangrove rehabilitation and strengthen the technical capacity of local universities and public institutions in forest carbon monitoring, reporting and verification. To deliver results, IUCN has partnered with WWF, The Nature Conservancy, Wildlife Conservation Society, and local NGOs including PNG Centre for Locally Managed Areas, Partners with Melanesians and the PNG Assembly for Disabled People

Coral Triangle Pacific

IUCN Oceania is implementing a component of the project *Strengthening Coastal and Marine Resource Management in the Coral Triangle of the Pacific (Phase II)*, with the aim of improving the resilience of coastal and marine ecosystems to climate change. In 2012, in-country inception meetings were held to design specific work plans for both the law and lessons learned components, and to establish relevant partnerships at the country and regional levels. This initiative is funded by the Asian Development Bank and is operating in five Pacific countries: Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste and Vanuatu.

GREENING THE WORLD ECONOMY

It is imperative that the full value of biodiversity is adequately taken into account in current and future development planning. The challenge for IUCN Oceania is to help Pacific Island countries to integrate ecosystem services and their values into economic policy, finance, and markets, and promote green growth and sustainable development in our region. Social and environmental values must be part of economic development.

Economics of coastal zone management

Working with the USP, SPREP and SPC, IUCN Oceania published the report “Economics of coastal zone management in the Pacific”. This report highlights the challenges of coastal zone management drawing attention to the fundamental drivers of change using economic concepts, principles and paradigms. The publication is being used as a resource for students at USP.

Influencing the development agenda

Much of IUCN Oceania’s inputs to Greening the Economy discussions have been carried out through the involvement in high level leaders’ meetings, such as the MSG. By engaging with the MSG, IUCN Oceania has worked to enable dialogue on green economy issues within the Pacific. Recognizing the value of nature in the development agenda, the MSG leaders declared, at the MSG Leaders’ Summit, that a Framework for Green Growth be developed for the Melanesian countries. IUCN Oceania assisted in developing this framework by providing technical advice, sharing environmental perspectives and taking part in multi-stakeholder dialogues.

Green Growth Coalition formed

Facilitated by IUCN Oceania, a group of senior Pacific figures shaped a new leadership coalition to help address some of the key environmental and development challenges facing the Pacific Island region. The Green Growth Leadership Coalition (GGLC) was formed in Natadola, Fiji in June by seven key leaders from the region, including His Excellency President Anote Tong of Kiribati. The GGLC will provide mentoring, support and guidance to Pacific Island leaders on sustainable development. They will also support countries and regional bodies such as the MSG, to prepare and deliver on Green Growth targets and commitments, in sectors such as mining and fisheries.



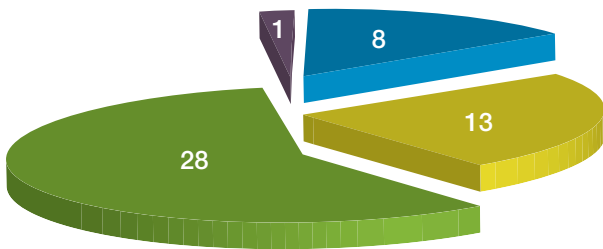
OUR MEMBERS

IUCN Oceania supports IUCN Members based in the Oceania region. In 2012, we welcomed the government of Vanuatu, represented by the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, to the Union, bringing the total number of Oceania Members to 50. This represents approximately 4% of the global IUCN membership.

IUCN World Conservation Congress 2012

Held every four years, the World Conservation Congress is IUCN's highest decision-making body, inter alia, defining the general policy of the organization and approving the Union's programme of work. It also allows Members and partners to network and exchange dialogue and information during its five day Conservation Forum. The 2012 IUCN World Conservation Congress was held from 6 -15 September on Jeju Island, Republic of Korea. This globally unique platform allowed conservationists, development partners, scientists, leaders, academics and the private sector to debate and discuss key issues concerning people and nature's wellbeing.

IUCN Oceania Membership 2012



- State
- Government Agencies
- NGOs
- Affiliate

Highlights from Jeju

Sessions

Over 100 partners and Members from Oceania attended, including a delegation of 15 staff from the Oceania Regional Office. Pacific issues were highlighted during Knowledge Cafés, Workshops, Pavilion events and posters at the Conservation Forum.

Awards

Professor Randolph Robert Thaman of the University of the South Pacific was awarded an Honorary Membership of IUCN, as was Dr Aila Keto of the Australian Rainforest Conservation Society.

Motions

Two motions related to mining, proposed by Oceania Members of IUCN, were approved by the Members' Assembly in Jeju. Te Ipukarea Society of the Cook Islands was one of the key sponsors for the motions.

Councillors

We congratulate our newly elected Regional Councillors on their appointments: Andrew Bignell (New Zealand), Brendan Mackey (Australia) and Ana Tiraa (Cook Islands), whilst acknowledging and thanking our outgoing Councillors: Diana Shand (New Zealand) and Robin Yarrow (Fiji).



STATE MEMBERS

Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, Australia
Department of Conservation, New Zealand
Department of Environment, Fiji
Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Environment, Nauru
Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Meteorology, Solomon Islands
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Tonga
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Samoa
Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, Vanuatu

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water, New South Wales
Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia
Department of Sustainability and Environment, Victoria
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Queensland
Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport, Northern Territory
Parks Victoria
Department of Environment and Resource Management, Queensland
Department of Environment and Natural Resources, South Australia
Wet Tropics Management Authority, Queensland
New Zealand Conservation Authority
Landcare Research New Zealand Ltd
Antarctica New Zealand

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Association pour la Sauvegarde de la Nature Néo-Calédonienne, New Caledonia
Australian Centre for International and Environmental Law
Australian Conservation Foundation
Australian Marine Conservation Society
Australian Network of Environmental Defender's Offices Ltd ANEDO
Australian Rainforest Conservation Society
Conservation Volunteers Australia
Environment and Conservation Organizations of New Zealand
Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand
Institute of Foresters of Australia

International Federation of Landscape Architects
Lincoln University, Environmental Management Division
National Environmental Law Association
National Parks Association of New South Wales
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National Trust of Fiji Islands
Nature Conservation Council of NSW
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Te Mana o te Moana, French Polynesia
The Wilderness Society
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University of the South Pacific
WWF Australia
WWF New Zealand

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Direction de l'environnement de la province Sud, New Caledonia
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ORGANIZATION OF MEMBERS IN OCEANIA

Australia National Committee
New Zealand National Committee
Oceania Regional Committee

IUCN'S COMMISSIONS

Out of the 10,000 members of IUCN's six specialized commissions, approximately 900 are based in Oceania, representing almost 10% of the global Commission Membership. This is impressive for a geographically large, but less populous region, and demonstrates the significant contributions that the region makes towards global and regional conservation issues. Individuals in Oceania are members of all six Commissions:

- Commission on Education and Communication
- Commission on Environmental, Economic, and Social Policy
- Commission on Ecosystem Management
- Species Survival Commission
- World Commission on Environmental Law
- World Commission on Protected Areas

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Fiji Islands Voyaging Society	Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation	South Pacific Tourism Organisation	Fiji Environmental Law Association
Invasive Species Specialist Group, Regional Pacific Office	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Samoa	United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Regional Pacific Office
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